



Rare Nova Scotia Precancel • Dear Doctor Postcards
Message from the Editor • Canal Zone #73
A Philatelic Mystery • Way Letter Marking
Mary Anning • Canada Map Stamp
B.I.O.T. • Angels

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The Rarest and Most Expensive Canada Admiral Stamps by Charles Adrion

Canada's "Admiral" stamp series was released between the years 1911 and 1925. Many different printings were produced with significant color changes for almost all denominations. There are 18 different Scott listed major numbers for sheet stamps, 12 coils, 3 regularly available imperforates, and some additional designs designated for "war tax" surcharges. They are colorful, popular, and relatively easy to find, especially used. Postal history is a challenge but again, most values can be tracked down with effort. I will not include the imperforate "errors" that got out the back door of the printing process or made their way to political insiders.

Among stamps that were available to the public and actually used there is a short list of stamps that are known in miniscule quantities - some unique. Even though they are off the beaten track of philately, they are pursued by an avid bunch of deep-pocket collectors. These are the precancels from Amherst, Nova Scotia and Sydney, Nova Scotia.



Amherst N.S. is known on the 1 cent die I yellow (Scott's 105), the 2 cent green (Scott's 107), and the 4 cent olive bistre (mustard color, Scott's 110). Only two copies of the 1 cent are known to exist, two of the 2 cent, and three of the 4 cent. When they come up at auction (once a generation) they can be expected to fetch \$5,000 or more.

(continued of pg. 3, see Nova Scotia precancels)

Dear Doctor Site Expands by Tom Fortunato

Having some time on my hands while we all are hunkered down has allowed me to catch up on projects I've been meaning to do. Improving my "Dear Doctor" web site has been one of them.

Some of you may have known George Griffenhagen, an ATA officer and doctor who collected all aspects of medical philately. He published an article in 1984 dealing with advertising postcards from around the world sent out by Abbott Labs between 1956 and 1968. Each started out with the salutation "Dear Doctor" and touted Abbott's drug Pentothal, an intravenous anesthetic used around the world. They were mailed from exotic locations depicting an image of the people or places found in that country. George's research postulated that, "no less than 170 mailings from as many as 77 different political entities," could exist, but no checklist had ever been compiled documenting them.

I discovered these cards myself around 1990 and afterwards read an introductory article about them in Linn's written by John Hotchner in 1995. Well, I was hooked and started my own trek involving these postcards, building on a small checklist started by a dealer and expanding on it over the years with the cooperation of hundreds of collectors through the web site I created about it. Collectively we have now found 182 face-different Abbott postcards in 10 different languages and from 34 countries and territories. Varieties in salutations, text settings, language, stamps used, and other card aspects continue to be found.

My own collection of these cards was finally large enough to display almost all of the 182 types. I was able to get images of the remaining few from an

(continued on pg. 3 (see Dear Doctor cards))

Message from the Editor

In a normal year, this May issue of Hinges would be filled with news on ROPEX, our annual opportunity to visit with each other and with our favorite dealers. Perhaps a time to find a few choice new items for our collections. In a normal year we would have had several meetings since the last quarterly issue and I would have lots of program news to pass along from previous and future meetings.

But, alas, this is not a normal year. There is no ROPEX, we have not met since early March and are unlikely to meet again until September, more on that below. Therefore, without all that fodder for this newsletter I sent out a call for input to all our members in late April. And what a response!

I received input from eight club members. I went from not having any idea how I would fill 6 pages with interesting, pertinent news and stories, to the realization that I had more input than room. But, I made an executive decision. Six pages is an arbitrary and unnecessary limit. If there is more quality input than will fit on 6 pages then there can be more than six pages. As a result this newsletter is a wee bit longer than previous issues.

I thank each of you for taking the time to help create what is a bit of a special issue, one that clearly indicates how diverse our collecting interests are, and also how well informed we are about our special interests.

I hope you all enjoy reading what fellow members have contributed. I fully expect the next issue will equally rely on your input. So take a moment as you read this to think if you can contribute to the August issue. You can do it now, or in June-July, but I hope you will agree with me that more members contributing makes for a more interesting newsletter.

Cheers, Fred Haynes

Upcoming RPA Meetings

This section usually contains a schedule of upcoming meetings with program information where it is known. Right now, the message is short and simple. **We have no meetings scheduled.** Once the JCC has re-opened and meetings of our type are again both permitted and recommended we will make sure everyone receives notice. Right now, it is very likely that RPA will not meet until September. Let's hope we can have a full fall schedule.

Canal Zone #73 by David Farnsworth

If any country has flyspeck philately, Canal Zone is it. A slight exaggeration is to say that almost every position of every sheet of the overprinted stamps is different by a tiny bit. That is compounded by numerous printings that are also distinctive. An exacerbating fact is that there are many counterfeits of Canal Zone stamps.



Recently, I bought the pictured stamp from a postcard dealer on the Web. I believe that the stamp is the somewhat scarce C over Z variety of Scott Number 73 and from its first printing of 1924. The stamp appears to be genuine, because it is on the correct underlying stamp and all of the dimensions of the overprint are precisely correct. Also, it looks right for inking and so forth.

There are some unusual features. The stamp is on the picture side of the card, which shows a scene in Cuba. The card was apparently sent from Colon Hospital, Cristobal, CZ, to California by someone under duress because the typed message is "I will be unable to do any writing until next thirty days." There is no cancellation or dates, so it may not have gone through the mail. The sender's name and the intended receiver's name and full address are present.

This variety of Number 73 is listed in the [Canal Zone Study Group](#)'s comprehensive catalog, which does not include values. Because I have not seen any on the market, its monetary value is a mystery to me.

Nova Scotia Precancels (continued from page 1)



The Sydney N.S. precancels can be found on four different denominations: 1 cent on both die I and die II, 2 cent green, 5 cent violet (Scott's 112), and 10 cent light brown (Scott's 118). Pictured is the die II, I have never seen the die I. The two different 1 cent and the 5 cent stamp are unique, only one copy of each has ever been found. The 2 cent and 10 cent are relatively common: two copies are known of each! Sydney prices are comparable with Amherst.

Both Amherst and Sydney precancels are distinctive designs and I suspect would be hard to counterfeit. Both show the unusual serifs on city, san-serif on province patterns. No fakes are known and if any new examples turned up you can be sure they will be carefully vetted.

So what has happened to all of these precancels? The Admiral stamps came in sheets of 100 so the original printing quantity was at least 100. All of the Canada city precancels were printed centrally in Ottawa under supposedly strict control (many inverted and double strikes exist for almost all cities). The pads of precancel stamps were then shipped to individual post office where they were used by trusted, permitted mailers.

The Amherst stamps were precancelled in 1923. However, according to information in the 1998 Lussey auction catalog of these stamps, things got messy *"They were to be used on parcels trucked by Eaton's (a big Canadian department store once Canada's largest, folding in 1999) from Moncton to Amherst for mailing at the lower local rates. The Post Office officials ruled that Eaton's was forwarding mail so the procedure was halted and the stamps recalled and destroyed"*.

The first Amherst precancel was not discovered until 1938. The Sydney stamps, printed in 1924-25, suffered the same fate. They were also discovered by collectors years later. So both these rarities coming from Nova Scotia have a logical explanation.

I have not seen any of these offered for sale in the last 10 years or so. They are all outside my budget constraints. Someday I want to visit Nova Scotia and have a look around. One or more might be hiding in a pile of old stamps - in a barn? in an antique shop? at a garage sale?

Dear Doctor Cards (continued from page 1)

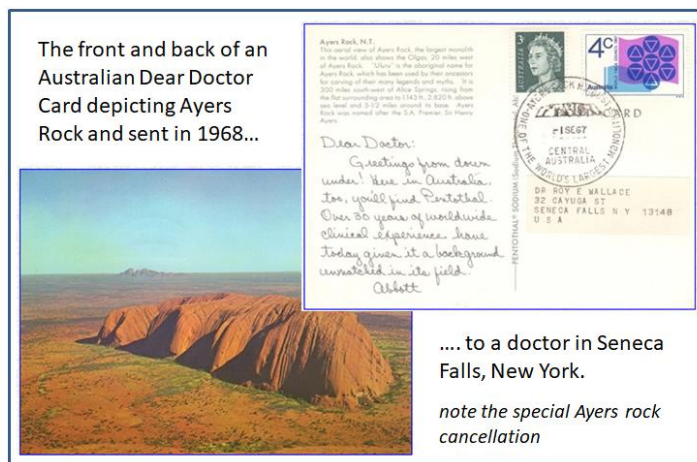
even more avid fan of these than me, Roger Cichorz of Boulder, Colorado. With all the image and finally some time, all can now be seen online for the first time at <http://www.deardoctormapostcards.com>. Just click the flashing "new" icon near the top. Clicking each card then takes you to a specialty page for that card, depicting some of its varieties. More than 840 total card images make up this part of the web site that come from an assortment of sources.



An Abbott Labs Dear Doctor Card from 1957

The postcard checklist in Excel format can be downloaded from the home page. It's a combination of a checklist and census for not only Abbott Lab cards but other "around the world" drug postcard mailings, and a few non-drug mailings. That totals over 10,000 cards. For those of you who think I have converted to a deltiologist, wrong! There is plenty of philately and postal history among those cards, now a half-century old.

Take a look when you get a chance!



.... to a doctor in Seneca Falls, New York.

note the special Ayers rock cancellation

Solving a Philatelic Mystery

by Robert Meegan

As a strong proponent of philatelic exhibiting, it is my contention that exhibiting promotes important philatelic research because the material in the exhibit must be accurately described. The research needed for an exhibit can also dramatically increase the philatelic significance of a philatelic item, and that principle is the central point of this article.



This cover shows what initially appears to be a used, and relatively common, postal stationery envelope that one might find in a box of inexpensive covers. At first glance, the only interesting aspect is the possibility that it may have been insufficiently prepaid as indicated by the large numeral 3 handstamp. Although the cover looked rather common, there were two things that, when combined on this single cover, attracted my attention.

First, I remembered that stamped envelopes first appeared sometime between 1853 and 1856. These initial stamped envelopes had a fairly elaborate design with something that looked like a braided rope at each side of the oval. I also recalled that the second design was much simpler and it was issued in about 1860 or 1861. The design on this cover looked relatively simple and I thought that it might possibly be from the second group of stamped envelopes that were issued near the beginning of the Civil War. It was then that the routing of the cover became more important. The origin is Savannah, the destination is Macon, and both cities are within the state of Georgia. I remembered that Georgia would eventually join the Confederate States of America sometime in mid-February, 1861. Without having any reference material with me at the time, there was no possibility to do any meaningful

research. However, these interesting possibilities were very intriguing!

It didn't take long to realize that this item has some fascinating "mysteries" that needed to be solved! The price was relatively inconsequential, the fun of investigating the nature of the cover was appealing, and there was a remote possibility of a noteworthy discovery. Case closed! These factors made it inevitable that this item would go into the "to be purchased" stack of covers.

When the investigation started, I could not detect the month in the Circular Dated Stamp. Apparently, the month in the CDS did not receive any ink. Also, and somewhat more discouraging, was the fact that there was no Savannah CDS in the latest edition of the American Stampless Cover Catalog that was identical to the one on the cover! Although the postal stationery was first issued in 1860, there was no correlation between the issuance of the postal stationery and the time range for the usage of the Savannah CDS. The lack of a positive indication of the month of usage in the CDS further hindered the process of solving this mystery!

For several years, the cover was in my exhibit of Domestic Postal Rates with various descriptions including such phrases as "...date of usage unknown..." and "...possible usage at the beginning of the Civil War..." Those phrases annoyed me (as well as the Jury!), so the cover was eventually removed from the exhibit. It may have been gone from the exhibit, but it was never forgotten! While at the Garfield-Perry show in early March, I described the attributes of this cover with Jerry Palazolo, a very active member of the Confederate Stamp Alliance who has served in nearly every elected office including several years as President. He was very interested in the cover and requested that I email him a high-definition image of it so that he could closely examine the cancellation for clues that may help solve the mystery.

After a series of communications, the investigation has confirmed earlier assessments and established the following:

1. The Postal Stationery is definitely Scott **U27** (3 Cent Red on **Buff** envelope), and this postal stationery was used from 1860 until it was demonetized, starting in April of 1861, at the beginning of the Civil War;

continued on next page (see Philatelic Mystery)

Philatelic Mystery (continued from page 4)

2. The date in the CDS is **JAN / 27 / 1861**. The month (JAN) has only faint traces of ink but, under ultraviolet lighting, the month is discernable;
3. Although the American Stampless Cover Catalog did not include an exact match for this particular Savannah CDS, information from the Confederate Stamp Alliance archives confirmed that the CDS was indeed used in Savannah during this time period; and
4. The large handstamp **3** is probably an indication that 3 cents is due for a double weight cover.

Conclusion: The correspondence was posted January 27, 1861, which is **after** the date Georgia seceded (January 18, 1861) and **before** February

4, 1861, which is the date when representatives from Georgia attended a meeting with other seceding Southern states in Mobile, Alabama. That meeting eventually resulted in the creation of the Confederate States of America. During this time period, while there was still hope that the tension between the North and the South could be peacefully resolved, the United States Post Office continued to operate in the seceding states.

The cover has now been returned to the exhibit, and it has a prominent location at the beginning of the Subchapter titled "The Postal System During the Civil War." Furthermore, there is now an appropriate description regarding the significance of this fascinating piece of postal history.

Way Letter Marking by Larry Rausch

A Way letter is any loose letter handed to a mail carrier (stagecoach, horseback, or railway) rather than being delivered to a route agent (today's post office). The mail carriers continued on their route and, upon reaching the next route agent, the cover was stamped with a **Way** mark. The postal rate was determined from the distance of where the letter was picked up to its destination.

The United States Domestic Letter Rate Act of March 3, 1847 set the postal rate of 10 cents for distances greater than 300 miles. An additional one cent is added for the **WAY Letter Fee** which is paid to the mail carrier. The Act of March 3, 1851 eliminated the Way letter fee and dropped the letter rate to three cents.

The letter shown to the right is datelined New Orleans November 30, 1850 from Mr. Edward Davis, stockbroker in New Orleans, to Mr. Mason Lawrence in Boston detailing a stock purchase.

I surmised that this letter was written on a boat traveling from his home in New

Orleans to Mobile. When the boat docked in Mobile, the letter was postmarked with an unusual baby blue Mobile, Alabama circular date stamp and a 11 cent Way mark (10 cents postage plus 1 cent **Way Fee**). But my observation was wrong as James Baird points out in his article on Way markings*. In 1847-1855 advertisements in the New Orleans Times Picayune paper, entrepreneur J.R. Geddes, promoted "Way Letter Bags". These bags located around New Orleans collected letters that were outbound for other cities. They were delivered directly to a steamship in order to bypass the busy New Orleans post office. These collected letters were postmarked in Mobile, Alabama and Mr. Geddes collected the one cent **Way Fee**, about \$3-\$4 dollars per day. One year later, the Post Office Department eliminated the **Way Fee**, thus shutting down Mr. Geddes business venture.



*Baird, J., 2017, About Steamships and Way Markings, *The Chronicle of the U.S. Philatelics Classics Society*, Ussue 256, p. 323-342.

Mary Anning by Fred Haynes



I am a member of the Rochester Academy of Science Fossil Section. In the April 2020 newsletter (called the Fossiletter), Michael Greiner wrote a wonderful biographic note on Mary Anning touching aspects of her professional accomplishments and her personal life. Mary was an early 19th century paleontologist in England who is credited with discovering and describing several Cretaceous marine reptiles including *Plesiosaurus* and *Ichthyosaurus*. I enjoyed learning about her fascinating contributions to paleontology.

After reading the full article I wondered if Mary Anning had ever been commemorated on a postage stamp as I collect postage stamps with a thematic specialty of geology on stamps. This includes minerals, fossils, dinosaurs, volcanoes, and yes, famous geologists. I was not aware of any Mary Anning stamps, but I did know where to look for them. And I found a few.

The first commemorative stamps I found honoring Mary Anning was a set of seven issued in 2012 by Mozambique (Figures 1 and 2). The set honors the 165th year of her passing. They are very nice looking stamps and include a great deal of detail about Anning, both on the stamps and in the selvages. Six of the stamps are set into a background with a fossil plesiosaur and ichthyosaur (Figure 1). They depict various themes from Anning's paleontological research. Mary herself is depicted on two of the stamps. Personally, I like the 66 MT stamp on the lower right with her standing beside a *Plesiosaurus dolichodeirus*.

As is typical of many commemorative stamp sets, the highest value of the set is placed in a separate "souvenir sheet" (Figure 2). For the Mozambique set this sheet includes vivid drawings of both the fossil reptiles Anning studied and also a depiction of them in a Cretaceous Ocean. I will need to obtain these stamps in order to read the full text inscribed onto the selvage.

Another smaller set I found honoring Anning was a three-stamp set issued in 2014 by Mali (Figure 3, next page). The set clearly honors Mary with its high denomination stamp in the center. The secondary



FIGURE 1

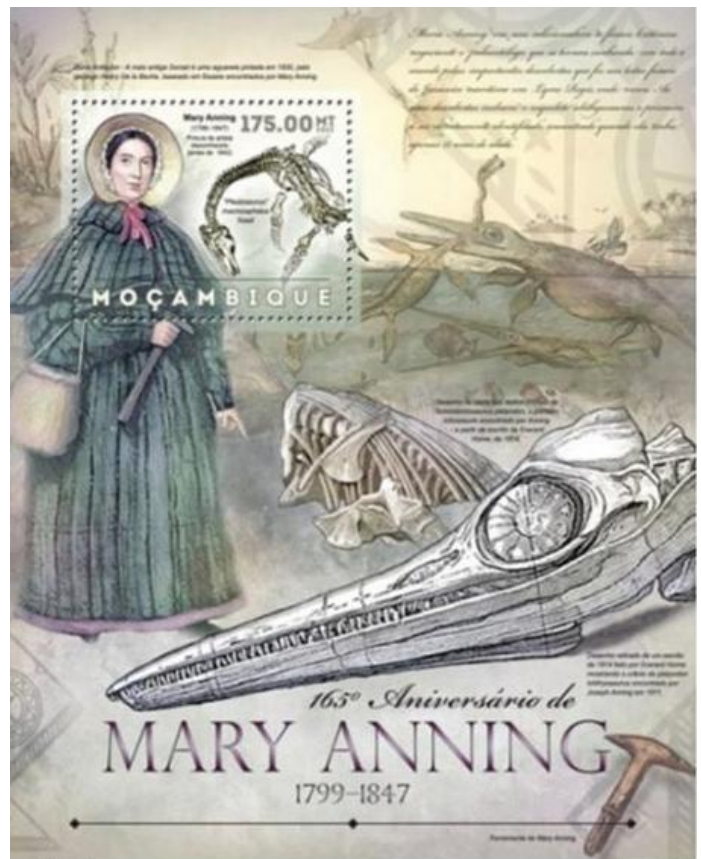


FIGURE 2.

stamps feature *Saurolophus* and *Ammonidea*. Anning likely collected many ammonites in the Cretaceous rocks near her home, but there is no reason to feature a *Saurolophus* in a set of stamps commemorating Mary Anning. The large hadrosaur dinosaur was not discovered until 1912, a full 65 years after Anning's death. Further, it was discovered and described in Alberta, Canada.

continued on next pages (see Mary Anning)

Mary Anning (continued from page 6)

Sometimes, countries issue stamps without full consideration of their content.

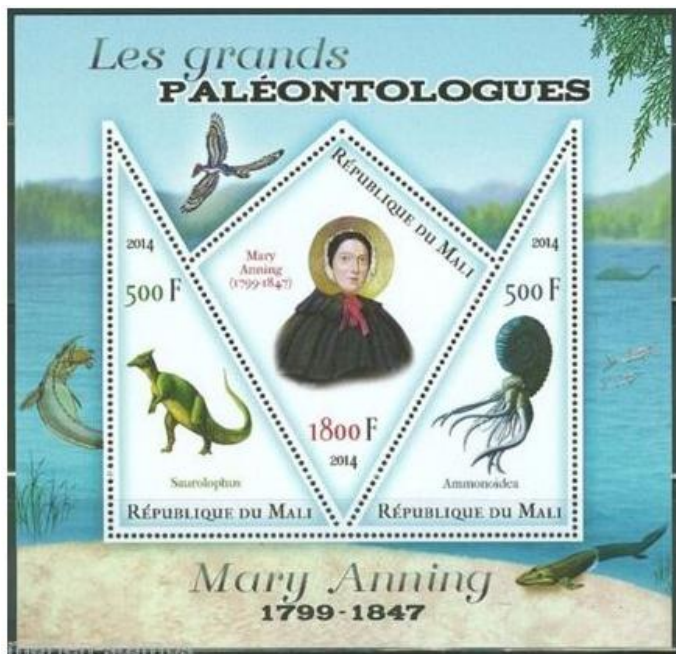


FIGURE 3.

You might wonder why a former Portuguese colony in southern Africa and a land-locked, former-French colony in central Africa would honor a British paleontologist whose primary work was done with Cretaceous reptiles found in Great Britain. The answer is pretty obvious: to sell stamps to collectors like me!

You might also wonder if Great Britain has ever honored Mary Anning in its postal history, after all, Great Britain was the first country to ever issue a stamp back in 1840, seven years before Anning passed away. The answer is “sort of”. In 2013, Great Britain issued an attractive set of 10 stamps depicting prehistoric animals. The set was designed to celebrate the long history of paleontology in Britain by featuring the discovery of a multitude of extinct animals in Britain by British paleontologists. Although Mary is not included in the stamps, her work is acknowledged in the descriptions provided by the British postal service. *Ichthyosaurus* and *Plesiosaurus* are both featured in the set. Figure 4 is the Postal Service’s Official First Day of Issue Envelope.

FIGURE 4.



All of this sounds grand until the British Postal Service decided to earmark the self-adhesive set of stamps as “Dinosaurs” and print sheets and envelopes with such labels (Figure 4). Four of the stamps are not dinosaurs, but rather flying and marine animals. Errors such as this are very common among the several thousand dinosaur (or not dinosaur) that have been printed onto postage stamps.

If you remain curious about collecting dinosaurs (or other fossils for that matter) on postage stamps you might check out this wonderful webpage (<http://www.paleophilatelie.eu/>). It is one of the more comprehensive compilations of thematic stamps available on any topic.

The 1898 Canada Map Stamp

Top Row: 78, 79, and 80

Middle Row: 87, 88, 89, and 90

Bottom Row: 96, 97, 98, 99, and 100

by Robert
Lighthouse



In January I was successful at auction and picked up an irregular block of 12 of the 1898 Canada map stamp. There are a couple of full sheets floating around but this is the largest multiple I have seen on the market. It is an oxidized changing, the muddy waters variety of plate 2. Because it is part of the last 3 lines (10x10=100) it has the printers inscription "AMERICAN BANK NOTE OF OTTAWA". I made an exhibit page with arrows pointing out the most dramatic characteristic on each stamp.

B.I.O.T. by Paul Brach

British Indian Ocean Territory was established in 1965. It consisted of Diego Garcia, Aldabra, Farquhar and Des Roches Islands until 1976 when the last three islands were returned to Seychelles. According to the Scott catalog, there is no permanent population on the Diego Garcia; only military personnel are located there. Stamps have been produced every year since 1968. Catalog values are mostly identical for both mint and used stamps. This begs the question whether these mostly topical stamps are really needed as postage for the British military or are they a source of revenue from stamp collectors. Is there even a post office on Diego Garcia? Are letters routed to the Seychelles or forwarded free via military (government) privileges? Food for thought.

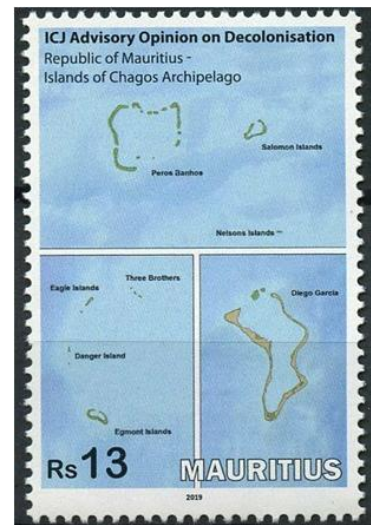


In 1975, just before three of the islands were released to the Seychelles, the Territory issued a set of four stamps depicting the islands. Can you read the lat-long locations on the stamps? Probably not, but the tiny islands are scattered across almost a thousand miles of the Indian Ocean!

Fast forward to today and the tiny island of Diego Garcia has returned to disputed sovereignty. In August of 2019, Mauritius, made a philatelic statement staking its claim to the island by issuing a stamp showing the islands (depicted to the right). Mauritius was emboldened when the International Court of Justice in the Hague declared Britain's current occupation of the island to be illegal. The decision also effects the United States as the enormous air base on Diego Garcia is a strategic location for both the British Air Force and the United States Air Force. This is a fascinating diplomatic conflict that is being fought, at least in small measure, by postage stamps!

Reference:

<http://commonwealthstampsopinion.blogspot.com/2019/08/1492-mauritius-stakes-philatelic-claim.html>



Three Stamps, Two Angels, One Love by Robert McCormick

What does a Christmas stamp issued in 1983 by Gibraltar, a British Overseas Territory located at the bottom of Spain on the narrow gap between Europe and Africa, and the 1995-1996 "love" stamps issued by the United States Postal Service have in common? I'll give you a clue. They have to do with a 16th Century Italian artist by the name of Raffaello Anti and a coffin he added to one of his paintings.

Give up? Well, the answer has to do with a couple of angels leaning on the coffin at the bottom of the painting. The angels are what the stamps have in common and that is what this story is about.



This the story of two very famous angels, angels that you probably have seen many times over the

years. Maybe you've seen them pensively staring at you as sip your morning coffee. Perhaps they've peered perplexedly at you from the letterhead of a letter or note card you were reading. Or maybe you've seen them adorned on key chains, umbrellas, bathroom towels, checkbooks, pillow covers, T-shirts, and even credit cards.

They've been commercialized, advertised, romanticized, secularized, and fantasized. They are probably two of the most widely recognized figures in the world, and yet most people do not know where these two angels came from.

The two angels are actually a very small detail of a larger painting entitled the *Sistine Madonna* that was painted in Rome between the years 1512 and 1514 by Raffaello Santi, better known as Raphael. The painting is magnificent oil on canvas that measures about 9 feet high and 6 feet wide currently on display at the Gemaldegalerie in Dresden, Germany.

The *Sistine Madonna* was commissioned by Pope Julius II. The principal figures are the Madonna with Child, Saint Sixtus, and Saint Barbara. However, at



the very bottom of the painting, comprising less than 10 percent of the entire canvas, there appear two little mischievous and mysterious figures that were an afterthought by the artist. Here is the story of how these little angels were added to the painting.

On February 21, 1513, Pope Julius II died. As a final tribute to his benefactor and the one who commissioned the painting, Raphael included the lid of the coffin of Pope Julius II at the bottom of the painting. The papal crown is seen at the head of the coffin, and two tiny cherubs appear resting their elbows on the top of the coffin.

Legend has it that as Raphael was constantly being watched by two small neighborhood children. They would gaze through an open window as the master painter worked in his studio. Moved by their whimsical expression, Raphael used them as models for his now infamous cherubs. And so, the two cherubs have been "detached" from their original setting, the larger *Sistine Madonna*, and have become a universal symbol of angelhood.



The British Territory of Gibraltar issued a Christmas Stamp in 1983 which depicts the *Sistine Madonna* by Raphael and the inscription of where the painting is located, Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden, which is the cultural institution in Dresden, Germany, owned by the State of Saxony. It is one of

the most renowned and oldest museum institutions in the world consisting of twelve museums.

Perhaps their most famous appearance was their inclusion on three different United States postal stamps issued in 1995 and 1996. Raphael's angels were selected to be the subject of the fourteenth in a series of "love" stamps issued by the United States Postal Service. The first stamp was issued on February 1, 1995, with no denomination on the stamp. This was done in order to have the stamp available for customers before Valentine's Day, February 14.



continued on next page (see Angels)

Angels (continued from previous page)



The 32-cent stamp bearing the likeness of the first cherub and the 55-cent stamp containing the second cherub were issued in 1996.

How very appropriate that Raphael's angels appear on the stamps with the word LOVE printed above their portraits. They were inspired by love and they depict love in their very expression.

Perhaps there is a lesson to be learned here, a lesson of love and appreciation. Knowing that Raphael's angels are only a small portion of a larger painting (less than ten percent of a nine-foot painting), they are loved and appreciated in spite of their small size and stature. They are loved and adorned because of what they depict.

Sitting on my office desk is a portrait of Raphael's angels and inscribed above their heads, as they pierce heavenly into the great beyond are the words, "Kind eyes will always see the love that surrounds us."

Maybe that's why Raphael added his angels, for the sake of love.



Earlier this month the Penny Black in your collection had its 180th birthday. The stamp was released on May 1, 1840, but not valid for use until May 6th, 1840.

UNITED STATES NEW STAMP ISSUES



Have you been to your favorite post office this week? These ten colorful stamps were released on May 13th to celebrate the beauty of American gardens. There was no public first day ceremony, but on May 14th the American Public Gardens Association sponsored a live online ceremony celebrating the release of the stamps. Perhaps online ceremonies such as this will become standard?